



STATE OF DELAWARE
Child Death, Near Death and Stillbirth Commission

FINAL MINUTES

Meeting Date and Time: May 16, 2014 at 1:00PM

Meeting Location: Appoquinimink State Service Center in Middletown, DE

In Attendance:

Commissioners:

Ms. Margaret Rose Agostino
Ms. Aleks Casper
Ms. Patricia Ciranni
Dr. Garrett H. C. Colmorgen, Chair
Ms. Tania Culley, Esquire
Ms. Patricia Dailey Lewis, Esquire
Mr. Mawuna Gardesey
Ms. Marjorie Hershberger
Judge Joelle Hitch
Dr. Kathy Janvier
Ms. Vicky Kelly
Ms. Becky Laster
Ms. Mary Ann Mieczkowski
Ms. Deborah Miller
Cpl. Adrienne Owen
Lt. Teresa Williams

Others:

Ms. Rosalie Morales
Ms. Jennifer Lilje

CDNDSC Staff:

Ms. Anne Pedrick
Ms. Angela Birney
Ms. Elaine O'Neill

I. Call to Order

Dr. Garrett H. C. Colmorgen called the meeting to order at 1:14 PM and introductions were made.

II. Old Business

- a. **Minutes.** The general meeting minutes from February 21, 2014, were accepted.

III. New Business

- a. **Annual Report.** Due to staff transition in 2013, there is a backlog of cases that were not appropriately entered into the National Data Tool. A timeline has been developed to rectify the issue (copies handed out). The cases will be entered by staff, and second-level quality assurance completed by the Executive Director. This will allow the statistics to be gathered from the National Data Tool and incorporated into the Annual Report. The Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) and Maternal Mortality Review (MMR) sections have been completed, and the Recommendation section requires minor updates. The report will be voted upon at the September Commission meeting and distributed by October 1, 2014. This delay in the 2013 Annual Report will not affect the 2014 Annual Report as procedures have been changed and staff will be entering and updating data following each quarterly Commission meeting.
- b. **CDNDSC Fall Retreat.** A strategic planning meeting will be scheduled in the Fall of 2014, date to be determined. The meeting will discuss changes, improvements, and strengths of the Commission and our procedures. The Executive Director and Policy Director of the National Child Death Review will be in attendance to help facilitate and guide the meeting, and to discuss national best practice. A survey will be distributed to all groups of the Commission to offer feedback as to agenda items that should be included. Any suggestions should be forwarded to CDNDSC Executive Director.
- c. **Cops-n-Cribs.** The NCCPD has initiated the Cops-n-Cribs program. This program is similar to that of the Direct On-Scene Education[®] (DOSE) Program with the Wilmington Fire Department. Lt. Teresa Williams will administer the program and train all patrol officers. Each patrol vehicle will be stocked with two Safe Sleep Kits and officers will have access to a small supply of cribs to provide in emergency cases. Lt. Williams has also been in contact with the Wilmington Police Department to engage them in the program. The success of the program will be presented at the Police Chief's Counsel meeting to promote further participation of other law enforcement agencies.

IV. Updates

- a. **DOSE[®].** The DOSE[®] program has been implemented state-wide and progressing appropriately. There was a glitch in the Wilmington Fire Department's (WFD) program due to staff transition; however, a meeting is scheduled for May 20th with Chief Anthony Goode to discuss how to move the program forward. Although the number of Safe Sleep Kits handed out by the WFD had not been tracked and reported to CDNDSC, there have been no unsafe sleep-related deaths reported in the city.
- b. **National Child Death**
 - Two years ago, CDNDSC had the opportunity to apply for the National SUID Case Registry Grant with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). However, the application was not submitted due to the lack of partner collaboration. The grant is available again and the CDC has strongly encouraged CDNDSC to apply. The deadline is June 30th. The Division of Public Health is required to be the submitting agency for the grant, to which they have agreed to do. The grant has been transformed into the National Sudden Death in the Young Grant and will incorporate all unexplained deaths, to include unsafe sleep-related deaths and sudden, unexplained deaths in older children.
 - This grant will:

1. Restructure the NCC and K/S CDR panels, as one panel will review all sudden deaths, regardless of cause, and the other panel will review all other deaths, regardless of county residency. The CAN panel will not be affected.
 2. Provide funds for child death/child near death investigative training for first responders.
 3. Allow CDNDSC access to more information within the National Data Tool, giving a more in-depth look into these types of cases.
- The grant average is \$45,000; however, it can go up to \$75,000.
- c. **A Collaborative Approach to Infant and Child Death Scene Investigations** (additional agenda item). Anne Pedrick and Angela Birney attended this conference on May 13th and 14th, held in Pocono Manor, PA. The training focused on a single investigation from the initial 911 call to the prosecution of the perpetrator. Break-out sessions included interviewing skills, doll re-enactments, crime scene photography, autopsy, and court proceedings.
 - d. **CPAC**. CPAC met on April 9th.
 - Some items of interest discussed were changes to the juvenile expungement statute; compiling statistics regarding crossover use of systems such as the Division of Family Services (DFS), juvenile justice and mental health; developing practices for adolescents in foster care; receiving statistics from the Department of Education regarding foster care students and working to improve systems for those students and training for staff, such as trauma based education, how to handle situations involving students who have experienced significant trauma. CPAC was instrumental in streamlining the graduation standards for foster children; each school district has different guidelines and requirements for high school graduation, as does the State. This revision will allow foster children to meet only the State requirements for graduation, when they have been moved between several districts.
 - CPAC has several pieces of legislation in the works that will be on the Senate agenda for June 3rd. The Guardianship Bill (HB 251); the Stop Child Abuse license plates (HB 253; if passed, a minimum order of 100 plates will be required for production); the Child Abuse Registry (SB 181) and the Protecting Delaware's Children Fund (SB 182) which creates a check-off block for donations on the individual state tax return. The final bill pending from CPAC is to expand CPAC membership to include the Chair of CDNDSC.
 - CPAC has used training funds to send members of the multi-disciplinary teams to various conferences. A team of approximately 20 members were sent to a child abuse symposium held in Huntsville, AL and another team will be sent to an abusive head trauma conference in Denver, CO in September.
 - The Protecting Delaware's Children Conference will be held at Dover Downs on March 3rd and 4th, 2015.
 - CAN Best Practice workgroup is revising the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Justice, the Children's Department, law enforcement, and the Children's Advocacy Center; and developing best practices to respond to child abuse and neglect cases.
 - Dashboards have been created to track child abuse and neglect cases. The dashboards will show information gathered from each agency of the multi-disciplinary teams and give a better idea of how many cases are received,

what is being done with these cases and how we can improve our systems. Examples will be provided and discussed more in-depth at the September Commission meeting.

e. **DHMIC.**

- The annual DHMIC Summit was held on April 9th at the Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington, DE. Evaluations from the Summit have been received and confirmed the Summit went very well.
- WorldWays has announced that Safe Sleep supplies are at dangerously low levels and are exploring resources to replenish their supply.
- DHMIC collaborated on a grant with the Ohio Perinatal Cooperative. The grant was awarded; negotiations to begin to determine how much each partner will be granted. This money will allow Delaware to collect data on Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS); hospitals will be required to report these cases to the Delaware Perinatal Cooperative. There has been some discussion between the state partners as what to do with the information once it has been gathered, and the idea of criminalizing the actions of these mothers. The Commission agreed that Delaware did not want to criminalize these acts, as this would be a deterrent for mothers and they would not seek appropriate medical care nor needed services.
- Next meeting will be June 9th.

f. **Maternal Addiction and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Conference** (additional agenda item). This conference, sponsored by the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), will be held at Dover Downs on June 5th from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. Registration is full and has been closed to all except physicians. Anne Pedrick reached out inquiring if Every Mother Initiative Grant funds could be used to add additional slots for participants; she is awaiting response. Another option is to utilize those funds to hold a second conference in September.

g. **HB 319** (additional agenda item). Representative Paul Baumbach introduced HB 319 to license direct entry midwives. Opinions are needed on whether or not this bill should be passed and if so, how the bill should be structured. Two cases involving midwifery have been brought before the Commission in the past. Currently, such midwives are practicing in Delaware without a license. Last year, as a direct outcome of one of our cases, legislation passed and made practicing without a license a felony offense. This new bill was drafted as an attempt to bring those practicing midwives into the system and regulate them; however, a different version of the bill was submitted. One main concern is that in such cases of a mother becoming high-risk at time of delivery, where Emergency Medical Services should be called, the midwife can have the mother sign acknowledgement of the risks posed to herself and the baby, and consent to continue with midwifery care, releasing the midwife of accountability of the outcome of the high risk birth. There is also an educational component to the bill which gives a midwife the same authority as an advanced practice nurse, without requiring the same educational background. The Commission voted to send a letter in opposition of the bill stating that although the intent of the bill was in the public's best interest, the bill as written is not and poses significant risks. A de-identified case summary and recommendations will be submitted with the letter. The letter will be sent to the sponsors of the bill (Representative Baumbach, Senator Harris McDowell and Senator Karen Peterson).

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously decided to accept the Kent and Sussex Counties FIMR report.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously decided to exit Executive Session.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously decided to adjourn the meeting at 2:46 PM.